

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONGEN ASMARA

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 12139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJECT: TRAVEL ADVISORY NOTICE, ETHIOPIA

WE KNOW OF TWO OCCASIONS WITHIN THE PAST SIX WEEKS WHERE U.S. CITIZENS WORKING FOR AFRICAN CONTRACTING FIRMS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND COMING TO ADDIS ABABA FOR R&R HAVE BEEN RELIEVED OF ETHIOPIAN CURRENCY BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT THE AIRPORT. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF CUSTOMS AT ADDIS AIRPORT, ETHIOPIAN CURRENCY REGULATIONS ALLOW VISITORS AND RETURNING RESIDENTS TO BE IN POSSESSION OF NO MORE THAN 100 ETHIOPIAN BIRR (US\$1- 2.05 BIRR) WHEN THEY APPLY FOR ENTRY. ALL BIRR IN EXCESS OF THIS IS CONFISCATED.

RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY ADVISE HEADS OF U.S. CONTRACTING FIRMS IN SAUDI ARABIA TO INFORM THEIR EMPLOYEES THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS APPARENTLY POSSIBLE TO LEGALLY PURCHASE ETHIOPIAN BIRR ON THE LOCAL MONEY MARKET, IT IS NOT LEGAL FOR ANY ONE PERSON TO ENTER ETHIOPIA WITH MORE THAN 100 BIRR IN CASH.

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